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TO: [REDACTED] MEA BRIEF.

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[REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST ASIA BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 20 APRIL 1987.

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FROM: [REDACTED]

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8. IN BRIEF

1. PLO-ALGERIA: PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
PLO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT'S APPARENT AGREEMENT TO ABROGATE THE AMMAN

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Approved for Release
Date JUN 1999

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[REDACTED]
ACCORD ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE HE REACHED WITH JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN IN 1985 HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR A PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN ALGIERS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN TODAY, AND THE ABU NIDAL GROUP MAY PARTICIPATE AS AN OBSERVER. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE TIMING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OPENING IS UNCERTAIN--THE ISSUE OF PLO-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS REMAINS UNRESOLVED--BUT DISCUSSIONS HAVE APPARENTLY REACHED A FINAL AND DECISIVE PHASE. [REDACTED] ARAFAT CONVENED THE PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE YESTERDAY TO RATIFY ABROGATION OF THE AMMAN ACCORD BEFORE THE MEETING BEGINS. THE STATEMENT YESTERDAY BLAMES THE US AND ISRAEL--NOT JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN--FOR FAILURE OF THE ACCORD AND SIGNALS THE PLO'S INTENTION TO PURSUE ARAB-SPONSORED PEACE TALKS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] EFFORTS TO FIND A COMPROMISE FORMULA GOVERNING THE PLO'S RELATIONS WITH EGYPT MAY PUSH BACK THE OPENING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, ALTHOUGH IT IS LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE SOMETIME THIS WEEK--IF THE GENERAL COMPROMISE AGREEMENT DOES NOT UNRAVEL. ARAFAT IS LIKELY TO RESIST DEMANDS THAT HE BREAK RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, WHICH HAS SPEARHEADED THE EFFORT TO INCLUDE THE PLO IN AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE. IF THE REPORTED TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT TO ABROGATE THE AMMAN ACCORD IS AUTHENTIC, IT DEMONSTRATES ARAFAT'S INTENTION TO PUSH THROUGH A CAUTIOUS STATEMENT THAT SATISFIES RADICAL DEMANDS FOR A SYMBOLIC BREAK WITH JORDAN BUT DOES NOT BURN ALL BRIDGES TO KING HUSSEIN AND HIS MODERATE ARAB ALLIES. [REDACTED]

IF THE ABU NIDAL GROUP HAS PLEDGED TO RENOUNCE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, IT ALMOST CERTAINLY DID SO PRIMARILY TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE COUNCIL MEETING. THE GROUP'S LEADERS PROBABLY SEE PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING AS A WAY TO ENHANCE THE GROUP'S STATUS WITHIN THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT AND TO TRY TO RADICALIZE THE PLO. ABU NIDAL TERRORIST OPERATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY OUTSIDE ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND THE GROUP IS UNLIKELY TO ABANDON THE ANTI-WESTERN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH IT HAS BECOME KNOWN. [REDACTED]

2. ZIMBABWE-SOUTH AFRICA: REACTION TO SOVIET ARMS DEAL

[REDACTED] ZIMBABWE'S ARMS DEAL WITH THE USSR ARE STIRRING DEBATE WITHIN PRIME MINISTER MUGABE'S GOVERNMENT, BUT SOUTH AFRICA'S RESPONSE HAS BEEN MUTED. [REDACTED]

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PRETORIA'S RESPONSE TO THE ACCORD SO FAR HAS BEEN LOW-KEY, DESPITE WIDESPREAD MEDIA COVERAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA. REPORTS IN THE PROGOVERNMENT PRESS HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO CRITICISM OF THE NEGATIVE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES FOR ZIMBABWE AND OF MOSCOW'S EFFORTS TO BUY INFLUENCE THROUGH MILITARY RATHER THAN ECONOMIC AID. DEFENSE MINISTER MALAN, THE ONLY OFFICIAL TO COMMENT, HAS REPEATED THESE THEMES.

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THE RANGE OF TERMS IS GENEROUS. HARARE COULD AFFORD THEM WITHOUT ECONOMIC DAMAGE IN THE SHORT TERM, BUT OVER THE LONGER RUN THE ADDITIONAL DEBT WOULD AGGRAVATE ZIMBABWE'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE PINCH THAT IS ALREADY CAUSING SHORTAGES OF SOME CONSUMER GOODS.

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THOSE SENIOR OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WHO OPPOSE THE ARMS DEAL ARE UNLIKELY TO TAKE A STRONG STAND AGAINST IT IF THEY BELIEVE THAT MUGABE SUPPORTS THE AGREEMENT. MUGABE, AS HE HAS ON OTHER CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, WILL PROBABLY ALLOW DEBATE OF THE DEAL TO CONTINUE IN ORDER TO GAUGE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN REACTION.

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SOUTH AFRICA'S RESPONSE SUGGESTS A DESIRE TO CONVEY AN IMAGE OF MILITARY STRENGTH RATHER THAN VULNERABILITY ON THE EVE OF NEXT MONTH'S WHITE ELECTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, PRETORIA PROBABLY WILL PERIODICALLY RAISE THE ISSUE TO SUPPORT ITS CONTENTION OF A 'COMMUNIST ONSLAUGHT.'

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3. ZAMBIA: DROUGHT COMPOUNDS KAUNDA'S PROBLEMS

DROUGHT IN SOUTHERN AND WESTERN ZAMBIA AND LABOR UNREST ARE ADDING TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S DOMESTIC TROUBLES.

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THE DROUGHT AND LATE DELIVERIES OF FERTILIZER HAVE RESULTED IN A 25-0 TO 30-PERCENT REDUCTION IN THE HARVEST OF CORN--THE COUNTRY'S PRIMARY FOOD CROP--AND A POOR HARVEST OF OTHER GRAINS SUCH AS MILLET AND SORGHUM. AREAS IN THE SOUTH AND WEST NEAR THE ZIMBABWEAN BORDER HAVE LOST 50 TO 100 PERCENT OF THEIR CROP. LAST WEEK THE GOVERNMENT RAISED PRODUCER PRICES FOR CORN IN ORDER TO OFFSET THE RISING COSTS OF FERTILIZER. KAUNDA HAS APPEALED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP COPE WITH THE EMERGENCY.

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IF THE DROUGHT PERSISTS UNTIL THE END OF THE DRY SEASON IN OCTOBER, HARVESTS LATE IN THE YEAR WILL BE SHARPLY REDUCED, PROBABLY RESULTING IN A NEED TO INCREASE IMPORTS AND POSSIBLY RETAIL PRICES OF STAPLES. THE GOVERNMENT WILL TRY TO AVOID RAISING CONSUMER PRICES FOR CORN IN THE NEAR TERM, AN ACTION THAT PROVOKED FOOD RIOTS LAST YEAR. LUSAKA PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES SOON, HOWEVER, TO OFFSET PRODUCER PRICE INCREASES, FURTHER UNDERMINING ITS IMF-BACKED ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAM. THE ZAMBIAN PRIME MINISTER PROBABLY WILL MENTION THE DROUGHT IN MEETINGS THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON WITH WORLD BANK AND IMF OFFICIALS.

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4. LEBANON-ISRAEL: CLASHES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON INTENSIFY

INTENSE FIGHTING OVER THE WEEKEND BETWEEN HIZBALLAH AND PALESTINIAN FORCES AND ISRAELI SOLDIERS AND THE ISRAELI-BACKED ARMY OF SOUTH LEBANON UNDERSCORE THE RECENT INCREASE IN ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIVITIES. A CHRISTIAN WAS KILLED WHEN A KATYUSHA ROCKET HIT MARJ 'UYUN--A MAJOR ASL STRONGHOLD--ON FRIDAY. A MAJOR PREDAWN HIZBALLAH ATTACK ON ASL-ISRAELI POSITIONS ON SATURDAY WAS SUCCESSFULLY REBUFFED. ACCORDING TO THE ISRAELI PRESS, SEVERAL FATAH FIGHTERS INFILTRATED ISRAEL YESTERDAY AND KILLED TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS BEFORE THEY WERE KILLED BY OTHER ISRAELI SOLDIERS. [REDACTED] b3

COMMENT: BOTH HIZBALLAH AND THE PALESTINIANS ARE DETERMINED TO ESCALATE THEIR ATTACKS IN THE SOUTH, BUT IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THE ATTACKS WERE COORDINATED IN ADVANCE. ISRAEL HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO RETALIATE--ISRAELI HELICOPTERS STRATED A REFUGEE CAMP AT AR RASHIDIYAH YESTERDAY. ISRAEL IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO RETALIATE HARSHLY AGAINST BOTH SHIA VILLAGES IN THE SOUTH AND PALESTINIAN CAMPS NEAR SIDON IN THE NEXT WEEKS. THE ATTEMPT TO INFILTRATE ISRAEL BY FATAH WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY DESIGNED TO BOLSTER ARAFAT'S IMAGE DURING THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN ALGERIA THIS WEEK.

5. LEBANON: DRUG DEALING BY CHRISTIAN MILITIA

THE LEBANESE FORCES MILITIA'S RELIANCE ON DRUG TRAFFICKING TO FINANCE MILITARY ACTIVITIES UNDERSCORES MILITIA COMMANDER JAJA'S LACK OF INTEREST IN COMBATING OTHER ILLICIT ACTIVITIES AND CORRUPTION WITHIN HIS ORGANIZATION.

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JAJA ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL CONTINUE RELYING ON ILLICIT FUNDS TO BOLSTER HIS PRECARIOUS POSITION INSIDE THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVE. DRUG-DERIVED REVENUES ARE A CRITICAL SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE CHRISTIAN LEBANESE MILITIAS AND OTHER FACTIONS AND ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE THE GROUP'S AUTONOMY AND FURTHER COMPLICATE POLITICAL RECONCILIATION. DRUG ACTIVITIES AMONG JAJA'S FOLLOWERS, HOWEVER, ARE LIKELY TO REDUCE HIS PERSONAL CONTROL.

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6. USSR-AFGHANISTAN: RAID INTO TAJIK SSR

ON SATURDAY TASS SAID AFGHAN INSURGENTS CROSSED THE BORDER RIVER AND ATTACKED SOVIET GUARDS ON THE NIGHT OF 8 APRIL, KILLING TWO GUARDS BEFORE BEING REPULSED AND SUFFERING HEAVY CASUALTIES. TASS ALSO SAID THE USSR WILL TAKE EVERY NECESSARY MEASURE TO PROTECT ITS FRONTIERS. MENTIONING THE US, THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY SAID EXTERNAL FORCES ARE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR OBSTRUCTING A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN BUT THAT THESE FORCES WERE DOOMED TO FAIL. TASS ADDED THAT KABUL CAN COUNT ON FIRM SOVIET SUPPORT.

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THE ONLY PREVIOUS MOSCOW MEDIA ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF

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INSURGENT OPERATIONS AGAINST SOVIET TERRITORY STRESSED ON 2 APRIL THAT NO INSURGENTS PENETRATED THE USSR IN A CROSS-RIVER ROCKET ATTACK THAT KILLED ONE. THE MORE AUTHORITATIVE TASS STATEMENT INDICATED RISING CONCERN OVER BORDER VULNERABILITY AND POSSIBLE EFFECTS AMONG SOVIET TAJIKS. ONE JUSTIFICATION FOR SOVIET TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN HAS BEEN AN ALLEGED US INTENTION TO THREATEN THE USSR FROM THERE. PUBLICIZING SUCH ATTACKS MAY BE INTENDED TO PREPARE THE SOVIET PUBLIC FOR A CONTINUED MILITARY PRESENCE DESPITE EFFORTS TO REACH A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

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7. SRI LANKA: MASSACRE ENDS CEASE-FIRE

THE MASSACRE OF MORE THAN 120 PEOPLE--INCLUDING SOME OFF-DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL--ON FRIDAY, ALLEGEDLY BY TAMIL GUERRILLAS, CAUSED THE SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT TO REVOKE ITS UNILATERAL CEASE-FIRE AND MAY SPARK ISLANDWIDE RIOTING. THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING LITTLE EFFORT TO RESTRICT INFLAMMATORY PRESS COVERAGE OF THE INCIDENT. COLOMBO BLAMED THE LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM--THE MOST POWERFUL TAMIL INSURGENT GROUP--FOR THE KILLINGS. TROOP REINFORCEMENTS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE AREA, AND COLOMBO IS ARMING LOCAL SINHALESE RESIDENTS FOR PROTECTION. TIGER SPOKESMEN HAVE DENIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE KILLINGS. MEANWHILE, A PROSCRIBED RADICAL SINHALESE MARXIST GROUP--THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT--LAST WEEK STOLE A LARGE SUPPLY OF WEAPONS FROM AN ARMY CAMP IN THE SOUTH,

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THE KILLINGS ARE THE WORST SINGLE INCIDENT SINCE MAY 1985 AND PROBABLY WERE INTENDED TO SABOTAGE COLOMBO'S EFFORTS TO RESTART INDIAN-BACKED PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. SUCH EVENTS HAVE CAUSED ISLANDWIDE RIOTING AND REPRISALS AGAINST TAMIL CIVILIANS IN THE PAST, BUT A MILITARY SUCCESS AGAINST THE INSURGENTS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS MAY REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY. WIDESPREAD AGITATION FROM THE SINHALESE COMMUNITY MAY FORCE PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE TO DELAY RESUMPTION OF PEACE TALKS AND RETURN TO MILITARY OPERATIONS. THE ATTACKERS--REPORTEDLY SINHALESE SPEAKERS--MAY HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF THE RADICAL MARXIST GROUP FROM THE SOUTH, WHO HAVE STRONGLY OPPOSED THE GOVERNMENT'S PEACE INITIATIVE AND HAVE USED TERRORISM TO SABOTAGE SUCH EFFORTS.

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8. IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

--IRAQ, TURKEY PLANNING THIRD OIL-EXPORT PIPELINE FROM NORTHERN OILFIELDS TO BATMAN, TURKEY . . . WILL REINFORCE ECONOMIC TIES . . . 70,000-B/D LINE MAY TRIPLE EXPORTS TRUCKED THROUGH UNSTABLE KURDISH AREA . . . MAY CONNECT TO DORTYOL EXPORT LINE.

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--LEBANESE DRUZE LEADER WALID JUNBLATT VISITING MOSCOW THIS WEEK . . . JUNBLATT EXPECTED TO REQUEST SOVIET MILITARY AID, PROTECTION FROM SYRIAN ASSASSINATION PLOTS.

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